

## **CHAPTER 8 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES**

Natural and man-made resources would be expended in the construction and operation of the Proposed Action and Alternatives. Human effort would be irretrievably committed during the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance phases of the project. The commitment of time, available labor, and machinery in the construction of the Build Segments would also represent an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.

Large amounts of construction materials would be committed to the project, although some could be recovered and recycled for other uses at a future date, if required. The roadbed would require approximately 325,000 cubic yards of fill material and 5,600 tons of lime. The track structure would require approximately 97,000 cubic yards of sub-ballast, 52,000 cubic yards of ballast, 47,000 railroad ties, 3,400 tons of rail track, and large quantities of tie plates, spikes, and anchors.

Construction of the land bridges and the grade-separated crossings would require approximately 15,000 cubic yards of concrete. The bridges over Armand and Taylor Bayous would be constructed of pre-cast concrete and would be brought to the site.

All construction activities would consume fuel, mostly in the form of diesel. This would be irretrievable. Operation of trains on the proposed rail line would also require an irretrievable commitment of fuel resources. The projected annual fuel consumption for round-trip operation of a train between the CMC Dayton Yard and the Bayport Rail Terminal and back again is 26,516 gallons. Operation of two switching locomotives within the Bayport Loop is estimated to require 82,000 gallons of fuel per annum.

The land required to accommodate the right-of-way for the proposed new rail line would not represent an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources, because it could be reclaimed from rail use at some date in the future, if required.

Construction of the Proposed Action would require the disturbance of approximately 2.84 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and approximately 4.22 acres of non-jurisdictional wetlands.